

Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting Recommendations

Recommendation 1. Designate & Implement Special Protection Waters

Where the Scenic Rivers legislation designated segments of the Delaware River, Outstanding Basin Waters should be applied where feasible. The segments in-between and those pending Wild and Scenic Rivers Act designation should be declared Significant Resource Waters. Final SPW targets should be adopted using the 2000-2004 data set.

Recommendation 2. Protect or Restore Priority Watersheds

Recommendation 3. Build Watershed Partnerships

- Memoranda of understanding with states and NPS
- Capacity building with non-governmental organizations related to meeting EWQ targets
- Monitor and coordinate water quality actions and plans in the Lower Delaware region
- Create and market guidance for maintenance and improvement of EWQ
- Strategies to maintain and protect water quality for water suppliers

Recommendation 4. Fill Critical Information Needs

- Understand canal-river relationships
- Perform cause and effect surveys within river reaches
- Quantify effects of nutrients and primary production on water quality
- Manage nuisance vegetation and invasive species

Recommendation 5. Consider Changes to Water Quality Rules

- Introduce nutrient and/or eutrophication criteria
- Create numeric aquatic life biocriteria for macroinvertebrates
- Revise Middle and Upper Delaware reach wide EWQ targets to site-specific targets.
- Introduce bacteria standards for non-tidal river
- Adopt Pennsylvania warm water temperature standards for protection of aquatic life
- Consider raising pH upper limit to 9 instead of current 8.5
- Consider raising TDS limit above Easton to reflect natural limestone influences
- Raise minimum Dissolved Oxygen to 5.5 mg/l in Zones 1D and 1E.

Recommendation 6. Support Monitoring to Meet Recommendations

- Add ICP sites between major tributaries for improved cause-effect resolution.
- Continuous monitors at Belvidere, Riegelsville, Paulins Kill. Maintain existing monitors.
- Reduce frequency of DRBC monitoring of minor tributaries
- Maintain frequency of monitoring for ICP and major BCP sites.
- Streamline and make concurrent EWQ assessment and 305B assessments
- Rotate synoptic surveys of minor tributaries for compliance monitoring
- Combine Upper, Middle, Lower Delaware monitoring programs into Scenic Rivers Program.
- Support EWQ monitoring of major tributaries and ICP locations from Hancock to Trenton.
- Create water quality model to serve planning for protection or restoration of water quality.